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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-BRAZIL RELATIONS

"The G Spot in the Obama era"

Op-ed in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (12-15) by columnist Eliane Catanhede says: "Diplomacy is done through signs, the press and letters. And after this, with visits from subordinates, ministers and presidents.....the Assistant Secretary for the region, Arturo Valenzuela, yesterday was in Brasilia; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is on her way; Obama comes in the first quarter. In the end, Lula, [Brazil's Foreign Minister] Amorim, [Brazil's Defense Minister] Jobim, [Lula's international affairs advisor Marco Aurelio] Garcia and [former Itamaraty Secretary General] Samuel [Pinheiro Guimaraes] may bark, but they never bite. And the 'pit bull' [the United States] knows its own strength [indicating the GOB knows who is in charge on issues such as Honduras, Iran and Copenhagen]."

((The title of the article is a reference to a very controversial and humorous remark made by President Lula when former President George W. Bush was in Brazil in 2007, alluding to the G-20 and the Doha Round Trade Talks)).

White